

Sinclair Broadcasting's decision to force their stations to air an anti-Kerry documentary just before the election is a grave misuse of the privilege they receive from the government to use the public airwaves free of charge. In doing this, they are not fulfilling their obligation under the law to serve the public interest and to air balanced public service programming. It is a clear example of the dangers of media consolidation.

One-sided programs, like "Stolen Honor", do not serve the public interest and are harmful to our democracy. In addition to the program's bias, it does not serve the cause of local programming. It is important that we see real people from our own communities and more substantive news about issues that matter. Local television stations are not networks or cable channels, and their parent companies should not be allowed to force them to air biased programming supporting either side during an election campaign.

Sinclair's actions show why we need to strengthen media ownership rules, not weaken them, and to enforce existing rules on public interest programming. Corporations owning large conglomerates of television or radio stations should not have the power to present propaganda and to dominate the airwaves. Thank you.